

Honor Flight participants as smooth and easy as possible.

The commonsense legislation before us today is a step to achieving that goal. It sets in motion a process for expedited passenger screening services by TSA for veterans traveling on an Honor Flight Network charter. It simply makes sense to authorize and facilitate collaboration between TSA and the Honor Flight Network to ensure that our veterans are treated with the respect they have earned and deserve when they come to visit the memorials dedicated to their service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4812 as a token of appreciation for our veterans' service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4812, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER CONTRACT EXTENSION

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4508) to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4508

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT CONTRACT EXTENSION.

Section 2(1) of the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act (Public Law 112-139; 126 Stat. 390) is amended by striking "4 years" and inserting "10 years".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Montana?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Hearing that water services delivery could be in jeopardy for 60,000 acres of some of the most productive farmland in my home State of Montana, I was happy to introduce this legislation that ensures that irrigation in southwest Montana is protected.

H.R. 4508 protects irrigation and water supplies in the Beaverhead Valley by extending the district's contract while an updated contract is pending approval by the Montana Water Court. This contract extension is necessary since the Montana court system is in the middle of conducting a necessary State-required review of the new contract between the irrigation district and the United States. This bill does not prejudice the outcome of that examination but keeps in place the existing 1958 contract so area farmers and ranchers in the Beaverhead Valley of Montana have water supply certainty for nearly 60,000 acres.

The legislation has no cost to the Federal Government and is based on congressional precedent. In fact, Congress has extended this 1958 contract a number of times, since an extension provides an irrigation district with an absolute right under Federal law to negotiate a new contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. This bill simply adds 6 additional years to the last extension, thereby extending the 1958 contract until December 31, 2019, or until a new contract is executed.

This bill is the result of hard work that is being done in Montana. I especially want to thank Mr. Bill Hritsco and the East Bench Irrigation District for their leadership and for working with me on this legislation to provide Montana farmers and Montana ranchers with much-needed certainty about their water supply.

Mr. Hritsco, the Dillon, Montana-based attorney representing the Irrigation District, provided expert testimony on this bill before the House Natural Resources Committee earlier this year. The Irrigation District's work with me on this bill represents how Montanans can roll up their sleeves and get good things done. As a result, water will continue to flow in the Beaverhead Valley's fields for years to come if this legislation is enacted. I urge adoption of the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4508, introduced by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES), would extend the East Bench Irrigation District's water contract, as he has said, for 6 years, pending a judicial ruling. The extension will allow the water to continue to be delivered to nearly 60,000 acres in the Beaverhead Valley of Montana, will protect the right for contract renewal, and will be useful to the residents of the area while the court confirmation process is given time for completion.

I support this legislation. I ask my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4508.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AUTHORIZING EARLY REPAYMENT OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS TO BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4562) to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4562

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. EARLY REPAYMENT OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm), any landowner within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska (referred to in this section as the "District") may repay, at any time, the construction costs of project facilities allocated to the landowner's land within the District.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF FULL-COST PRICING LIMITATIONS.—On discharge, in full, of the obligation for repayment of all construction costs described in subsection (a) that are allocated to all land the landowner owns in the District in question, the parcels of land shall not be subject to the ownership and full-cost pricing limitations under Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.), including the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390aa et seq.).

(c) CERTIFICATION.—On request of a landowner that has repaid, in full, the construction costs described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall provide to the landowner a certificate described in section 213(b)(1) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

(1) modifies any contractual rights under, or amends or reopens, the reclamation contract between the District and the United States; or

(2) modifies any rights, obligations, or relationships between the District and landowners in the District under Nebraska State law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Montana?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4562, sponsored by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), allows farmers to repay accelerated or lump sums of capital debt owed to the Bureau of Reclamation.

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In many cases throughout the West, current Federal law does not allow landowners to make such early repayments on Federal irrigation projects. These outdated Federal hurdles are similar to a bank prohibiting a homeowner from paying his or her mortgage early.

Congressman SMITH's bill removes the Federal Bureau of Reclamation repayment prohibition for individual landowners within the Northport Irrigation District. In return for such payments, these farmers will no longer be subject to the acreage limitations and the paperwork requirements in the Reclamation Reform Act.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this bill could generate up to \$440,000 in Federal revenue. The bill is based on two recent precedents that passed in both Republican- and Democrat-controlled houses, and today, we should continue those efforts by adopting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. H.R. 4562 would authorize landowners served by the Northport Irrigation District to prepay the remaining portion of construction costs allocated to them for the North Platte Project.

In exchange, the landowners who pay will no longer be subject to Federal acreage limitations and other requirements associated with the Reclamation Reform Act.

I believe no one from the minority intends to oppose this legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), also a former member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Natural Resources Committee for moving this bill and also to the gentleman from Montana for his remarks.

Under Federal reclamation law, irrigation districts which receive water from a Bureau of Reclamation facility must repay their portion of the capital costs of the water project, typically under long-term contracts.

I introduced this bill to provide members of the Northport Irrigation District early repayment authority

under their dated reclamation contract. The contract in question is more than 60 years old and continues to subject landowners to burdensome reporting requirements and acreage limitations without generating revenue to the Federal Government.

Allowing producers within the district to pay off their portion of the contract means the government will receive funds perhaps otherwise uncollected and the landowners will be relieved of costly constraints which threaten family-owned operations.

For example, at a Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee hearing earlier this year, one member of the irrigation district testified the acreage limitation will prohibit parents who own land in the district from passing down or selling farmland to sons and daughters who also own land in the same district.

As Mr. DAINES mentioned, similar legislation has passed under bipartisan majorities and, according to the CBO, could generate as much as \$440,000 in Federal revenue.

This is a straightforward bill which would make a big difference to some family farmers in Nebraska.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman is ready to close, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge approval of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4562.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE— FISH SPRINGS RANCH SETTLEMENT ACT

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3716) to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3716

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe - Fish Springs Ranch Settlement Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Ratification of agreement.
- Sec. 4. Waiver and releases of claims.
- Sec. 5. Satisfaction of claims.
- Sec. 6. Beneficiaries to agreement.
- Sec. 7. Jurisdiction.
- Sec. 8. Environmental compliance.
- Sec. 9. Miscellaneous provisions.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ORIGINAL AGREEMENT.—The term "Original Agreement" means the "Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fish Springs Ranch Settlement Agreement" dated May 30, 2007, entered into by the Tribe and Fish Springs (including all exhibits to that agreement).

(2) AGREEMENT.—The term "Agreement" means the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe-Fish Springs Ranch 2013 Supplement to the 2007 Settlement Agreement dated November 20, 2013, entered into by the Tribe and Fish Springs, and all exhibits to that Agreement.

(3) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The term "environmental impact statement" means the final environmental impact statement for the North Valleys Rights-of-Way Projects prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (70 Fed. Reg. 68473).

(4) FINAL PAYMENT DATE.—The term "final payment date" means 30 days after the date on which the Tribe executes the waivers, as authorized in section 4, on or before which Fish Springs shall pay to the Tribe the \$3,600,000 and accumulated interest pursuant to subparagraph 4.2 of the Agreement.

(5) FISH SPRINGS.—The term "Fish Springs" means the Fish Springs Ranch, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company (or a successor in interest).

(6) FISH SPRINGS WATER RIGHTS.—The term "Fish Springs water rights" means the 14,108 acre feet of water available to Fish Springs pursuant to certificates of water rights issued to Fish Springs or its predecessors in interest by the State Engineer for the State of Nevada, copies of which are attached as Exhibit "G" to the Original Agreement.

(7) ADDITIONAL FISH SPRINGS WATER RIGHTS.—The term "additional Fish Springs water rights" means the rights to pump and transfer up to 5,000 acre feet per year of Fish Springs water rights in excess of 8,000 acre feet per year, up to a total of 13,000 acre feet per year, pursuant to Ruling No. 3787 signed by the State Engineer for the State of Nevada on March 1, 1991, and Supplemental Ruling on Remand No. 3787A signed by the State Engineer for the State of Nevada on October 9, 1992.

(8) HONEY LAKE VALLEY BASIN.—The term "Honey Lake Valley Basin" means the Honey Lake Valley Hydrographic Basin described as Nevada Hydrographic Water Basin 97.

(9) PROJECT.—The term "Project" means the project for pumping within Honey Lake Valley Basin and transfer outside of the basin by Fish Springs of not more than 13,000 acre feet per year of Fish Springs water rights, including—

(A) not more than 8,000 acre feet as described in the environmental impact statement (but not the Intermountain Water Supply, Ltd., Project described in the environmental impact statement) and the record of decision;

(B) up to the 5,000 acre feet of additional Fish Springs water rights; and

(C) the rights and approvals for Fish Springs to pump and transfer up to said 13,000 acre feet of groundwater per year.

(10) RECORD OF DECISION.—The term "record of decision" means the public record of the decision of the District Manager of the United States Bureau of Land Management's Carson City District in the State of Nevada issued on May 31, 2006, regarding the environmental impact statement and the Project.

(11) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior (or a designee of the Secretary).

(12) TRIBE.—The term "Tribe" means the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Indians organized under section 16 of the Act of June 18,